

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

It is time for the FCC to re-examine its ownership regulations and go back to the original limits of seven stations per owner. Only this will restore competition in the marketplace of ideas that is the essential principle of democracy.

Sinclair broadcasting's ownership of many many stations and its use of that ownership to squash political opposition within the staff and its programming is a prime example of deregulation gone wrong.

It is clearly time for a change.

Ray E. Hiebert, Professor and Dean Emeritus,  
University of Maryland